



Environment and Society

PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome to our Dec 25/Jan 26 newsletter and Happy New Year to you all! Fossil capitalism is certainly taking us on some strange geopolitical twists and turns at the beginning of the new year as climate change rolls on. There is no better time than now to continue to theorise and research how we can transform society, protect the environment and achieve social justice. I'm heartened by the work of RC24 colleagues, the articles published in our journal Environmental Sociology and the growing interest in environmental sociology within our broader discipline. I am pleased to warmly welcome new members who have recently joined RC24 and a very warm welcome back to members who have recently renewed their membership.

I am delighted to advise that we have appointed a new Editor in Chief for our journal Environmental Sociology. The successful candidate is Prof Chelsea Schelly from the Nelson Institute for Environmental Studies at the University of Wisconsin-Madison. We are now in a transition period till Chelsea Schelly takes over from Stewart Lockie on July 1, 2026. I'd like to express my deep gratitude to Prof Stewart Lockie for his leadership in establishing the journal and growing it into the successful publication it is today. Sincere thanks also to the Associate editors Mark Soddart and Catherine Mei Ling Wong and the expert editorial board for their ongoing contribution to the journal. It is an exciting time for the journal, and I look forward to how it will develop under the leadership of Prof Schelly.

The RC24 board have been working on streamlining our statutes and we will ask you to vote for whether your support these changes or not by the end of January, 2026. The key changes are to update processes and language and move to a portfolio model for the board where board members take responsibility for a portfolio of activity. More detailed information is in the newsletter. RC24 board positions will be open again in 2027 and I encourage you to consider nominating for a board role when the time comes.

In closing, I would also like to take this opportunity to thank Kerry Ard our new secretary for her hard work in producing this newsletter for us. I hope you enjoy the newsletter and I invite you to connect with RC24 colleagues via our LinkedIn group: <https://www.linkedin.com/groups/14424686/> or new Instagram page: <https://www.instagram.com/isarc24/#>

Jo Lindsay- RC24 President
Monash University, Australia

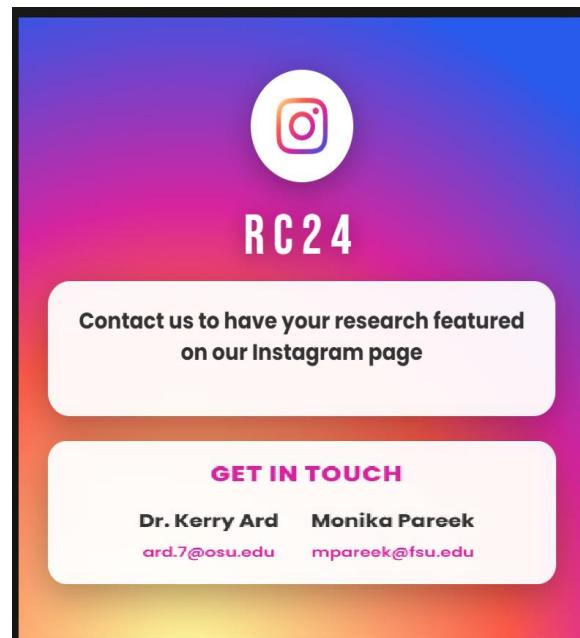
A NOTE FROM THE SECRETARY

Dear RC24 members,

I'm delighted to step into my new role as RC24's Secretary. One of my primary responsibilities is keeping RC members informed about activities and plans. Because this newsletter is organized around plans and possibilities, I thought I'd briefly summarize what's been happening in environmental sociology.

As I've been learning systematic review methods, I've been struck by several themes emerging from environmental sociology scholarship in 2025. The field is simultaneously reinforcing long-standing insights while expanding rapidly in response to accelerating ecological crises. Across diverse contexts, research consistently shows that environmental harms—such as climate change, pollution, disasters, biodiversity loss, and resource extraction—are socially produced, unevenly distributed, and shaped by political and economic structures including militarization, extractivism, and global capital flows. At the same time, scholars are pushing beyond human-centered and Global North–focused perspectives, advancing decolonial, multispecies, and epistemic justice approaches that examine how knowledge, governance, narratives, and technologies (including AI) shape environmental outcomes. Overall, the literature reflects a clear shift toward understanding environmental problems as systemic, historically rooted, and morally consequential socio-ecological processes. Global events in 2025 reinforced these insights. Record-breaking temperatures, escalating climate-driven disasters, weakened environmental protections, and stalled international negotiations underscored how environmental change and social inequality are mutually constitutive, shaped by power and uneven capacities for protection and response.

As we move into 2026, I hope our field increasingly centers where solutions are emerging. Renowned sociologist Erik Olin Wright wrote about how social transformation requires imagining new structures. To inspire new social formations, we must identify where meaningful improvements have occurred. Where have societies developed new processes that improve environmental conditions for all their citizens? How do we replicate these?



Kerry Ard-RC24 Secretary
Ohio State University, United States of America

JOB OPPORTUNITIES

Assistant Professor of Sociology (Tenure-Track)

Central European University, Vienna, Austria

- **Position:** Full-time, on-site, tenure-track Assistant Professor
- **Field:** Sociology, with interests in cultural, environmental, political sociology, and sociological theory
- **Salary:** €70,000 annual gross, plus benefits
- **Start/Status:** Temporary academic appointment (tenure-track)
- **Application deadline:** January 22, 2026
- <https://www.ceu.edu/>

Lecturer of Sociology (Global Politics of Migration)

Barnard College, Department of Sociology, New York City, New York

- **Position:** Full-time Lecturer
- **Field:** Political sociology; sociology of immigration and migration (global and comparative focus)
- **Start date:** July 1, 2026
- **Salary:** \$88,000–\$94,000
- **Application deadline:** February 18, 2026
- <https://barnard.wd1.myworkdayjobs.com/Faculty>

Lecturer of Sociology

University of Florida, Department of Sociology and Criminology & Law, Gainesville, Florida

- **Position:** Faculty Lecturer
- **Field:** Open to all sociology specialties (including criminology and criminal justice; psychology and law; families and gender; health, aging, and the life course; environment and resources; race and ethnicity)
- **Salary:** Competitive and commensurate with qualifications and experience
- **Application deadline:** January 15, 2026
- <http://www.soccrim.ufl.edu/>

Assistant or Associate Professor of Rural Sociology

Pennsylvania State University, State College, Pennsylvania

- **Position:** Full-time faculty (Assistant or Associate Professor)
- **Field:** Rural Sociology
- **Work mode:** On-site
- **Salary:** DOE (dependent on experience)
- **Application deadline:** January 10, 2026
- <https://aese.psu.edu/>

Assistant Professor – Rural Sociologist (Tenure-Track)
Auburn University, College of Agriculture, Auburn, Alabama

- **Position:** Full-time, tenure-track Assistant Professor
- **Field:** Rural Sociology
- **Work mode:** On-site
- **Salary:** \$80,000–\$90,000
- **Appointment type:** Permanent
- **Application deadline:** January 11, 2026
- <https://www.auemployment.com/postings/56553>

UPCOMING CONFERENCES

American Sociological Association

<https://www.asanet.org/annual-meeting/call-for-submissions-and-proposals/>

August 7- August 11. New York City, USA

Australian Sociological Association

<https://www.tasa.org.au/>

November 24- November 27. Sunshine Coast, Australia

Design Across Time

<https://designprinciplesandpractices.com/2026-conference>

February 25-27, 2026. Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, + Online

European Sociological Association

<https://www.europeansociology.org/conference/2026>

August 24-August 27. Warsaw, Poland

Pathways to Resilience: Sustainable Practices in Tourism and Leisure

<https://tourismandleisurestudies.com/2026-conference/special-focus>

June 15-17, 2026 University of Patras, Greece + Online

Southern Sociological Society Annual Meeting

<https://sss.meetingsavvy.net>

Jacksonville, FL, 8-11 March 2026

Society for the Study of Social Problems

https://www.sssp1.org/index.cfm/m/1044/2026_Annual_Meeting/

August 6- August 9. New York City, USA

RC24 STATUE PROPOSAL UPDATE

At our business meeting in Rabat held during the 5th ISA Forum of Sociology, we discussed the following updates to the RC24 statutes. Please see attached document for specific changes.

Membership Structure

The proposal eliminates the two-tier membership system. Currently, RC24 has both "regular members" (ISA + RC24) and "affiliated members" (RC24 only, or organizations). The update consolidates to a single membership category - regular members who pay through ISA. The rationale: reduce administrative complexity while preserving equity by allowing non-members to engage through social media channels and access newsletters on the website. This also removes hardship membership provisions and shifts membership management to ISA rather than RC24 maintaining its own lists.

Board Composition & Structure

We proposed to restructure the Board from a more generic model to a portfolio-based system. Instead of "six regularly elected members" alongside officers, the new structure includes: President, VP, Secretary, Treasurer, Editor-in-Chief of *Environmental Sociology*, and four members with specific portfolios (e.g., Communications, Website, Teaching, Early Career Researcher support). The Past President becomes a regular member rather than being designated as an "eleventh voting member," and provisions for additional past presidents serving as non-voting members are removed. Country representation rules are simplified: the limit changes from "no more than four from one country" to "no more than two from the same country."

Election & Appointment Rules

The election process is streamlined with simplified country representation requirements. If no nominations come forward, "executive members" (rather than just the Treasurer) can be appointed by the President. The detailed provisions about Treasurer appointment terms and succession procedures are removed.

Meetings & Reporting

Business meetings will now occur at both ISA forums and congresses (not just congresses). Financial statements shift from being published in the newsletter every four years to being provided at every business meeting. The statutes explicitly recognize *Environmental Sociology* journal royalties as a revenue source.

Communications & Administration

Language throughout is modernized: newsletters are specified as "by email" or available on the website, publications move from "worldwide web or comparable medium" to simply "RC24 webpage," and provisions for printed copies are removed. The Secretary is no longer responsible for maintaining membership lists (now handled by ISA). Mid-term conference language is simplified to just note it "includes the ISA forum."

Note: These changes require approval by two-thirds vote of our RC members (per Section 13.1c)-
so please vote using this link: https://osu.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_cNrxGNTdNvoFHbE

JOURNAL UPDATE -- ENVIRONMENTAL SOCIOLOGY

I am delighted to be selected as the incoming Editor for Environmental Sociology. Personally, I've never known what it means to have a sociological imagination without being oriented to having an environmental sociological imagination; my core belief as a sociologist is that the social systems (socio-political, socio-economic, socio-cultural, etc.) that organize how humans meet their needs and comforts are foundationally centered on exploitation – this includes exploitation of humans by other humans and exploitation of the earth system and all communities of life that are part of this shared planetary home - and that there is no possible way of addressing or correcting the exploitative harms of human-human relations without also acknowledging and working to change the exploitative harms of human-earth relations. To me, they have always presented as different facets of one and the same system of relations. Throughout my career, I've aimed to bring this perspective into many kinds of sociological inquiry and team science projects, while also aiming to continue learning from the myriad knowledge systems that can offer insights into this core aspect of the human predicament, the linked systems that can only be revealed through an environmental sociological imagination.

I tell this story regularly to new graduate students starting their own professional journeys: I have known that I wanted to become a sociologist (and particularly an environmental sociologist, even though I didn't know there was such a field at the time) since I was 17 years old. My first year of college, I was incredibly fortunate to be introduced to sociology by two professors at the University of Tulsa, and I will forever be grateful to them (thank you Dr. Jean Blocker and Dr. Susan Chase!) for giving an angsty teenager (me) language to talk about and a perspective to understand the systems, path dependencies, and lack of reflexivity I found so frustrating in the social world around me. I knew that first year of college that my goal was to spend my career helping other young people to see the world anew, and by recognizing social systems as the lived embodiment of the social construction of the reality, to feel empowered to participate in social change.



Environmental Sociology journal's
new editor Chelsea Schelly

One of my first research experiences in environmental sociology involved qualitative interview research to understand land tenure change among the Maasai in Kenya, which I was able to do because of the support for undergraduate research experiences provided by University of Wisconsin-Madison, where I completed my Bachelors. This formative experience introduced me to the importance of cultural humility in international research as well as to the ways ideological neocolonialism operates in socio-ecological systems decisions. I have continued to publish on international research only when in partnership with local knowledge holders. The international scope of Environmental Sociology is part of its significance for a global audience of scholars, which I look forward to continuing to support.

Evolving from this initial inquiry of a substantive socio-ecological transitions (land ownership and management), much of my work can be characterized as the study of socio-technological and socio-ecological change. My body of scholarship includes several projects and publications focused specifically on the intersections of energy and society, including a publication in Environmental Sociology (Banerjee, Halvorsen, and Schelly 2017) that was led by a graduate student and represents what I see as a hallmark of the journal, with an aim to integrate empirical insights with advancing conceptual knowledge. My most highly cited publications are focused on residential solar energy technology adoption (Schelly 2014) and adoption of agrivoltaics, which involves the integration of solar energy and agriculture (Pascaris, Schelly, Burnham, & Pearce 351). I've also written two books on other community-scale socio-technological alternatives (2014, 2017).

In my time working in the Department of Sociology at Michigan Technological University (2013-2025), I have had the privilege of learning from and collaborating with Tribal members and government staff from the Keweenaw Bay Indian Community, the original inhabitants of the Keweenaw Peninsula (where Michigan Tech is located). I am in no way an expert on Tribal Nations, Tribal sovereignty, or Indigenous knowledges; I have aimed to position myself as a learner and a listener in these relations. This opportunity for learning has informed my perspective on current environmental crises as fundamentally crises in worldview; seeing the earth as a stagnant source of "resources" available for human use (exploitation) is both empirically inaccurate and a foundational root cause of contemporary socio-ecological crises. As an author, I have published about some of the insights gained from this partnership (Schelly et al. 2021; Schelly, Gagnon, Brosemer, and Arola 2024), and I am currently working on projects associated with how the worldviews and systems of modernity shape human understanding and action in the context of planetary limits. As an editor, I hope to support advancing the important work in Environmental Sociology to honor the earth's animacy, recognize the sovereignty of all beings, and to acknowledge the earth as a planetary home in which we humans are merely one species embedded in a web of relations.

The international scope, the weaving of conceptual and empirical contributions into coherent manuscript narratives, and the pluralisms – including ontological, epistemological, methodological – of Environmental Sociology are, to me, part of what is core to this community of scholarship. As editor, I will aim to continue supporting these core tenants of this

community. I've also spent much of my career focused on graduate student mentoring, and I hope to be able to support the professional development of students and early career scholars through opportunities for publication. My experience with team science is also likely to shape my approach as editor, as I have worked across disciplinary boundaries and with partners outside of the academy on projects in ways that shape how I think about what it means to advance an environmental sociological imagination by working beyond the guard rails sometimes imposed by disciplinary differentiations. Finally, my experience serving as a book review editor (Social Science Journal, Society & Natural Resources) and an associated editor (Society & Natural Resources) provides me assurance that I will find this role both meaningful and manageable.

Perhaps most importantly, I hope that my time as Editor of Environmental Sociology can help to support a robust community of scholars making global contributions to how humans conceive of and confront the myriad socio-ecological crises we currently face. I think this will work best when you, as readers and contributors, feel a sense of engagement with the journal, actualized through participation in its activities (consider this my preemptive expression of appreciation for you accepting that invitation to review!). I think it also requires that I continue to position myself as learner and listener such that you can share ideas (for special issues, among other things), ask questions, and collectively participate in continuing to leverage the journal as a place that advances the significance of environmental sociology as essential for building a less exploitative – and a more sustainable, resilient, equitable, and just – future for humans and all the more-than-human communities of life with whom we share this one planetary home.

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Please consult our [RC24 Website](#) for information about:

- How to become a member of the RC24
- Previous Newsletters
- Environmental Sociology journal
- Activities
- Governance of RC24
- Links to our [Instagram](#), [Linkedin](#), and to learn about the new listserv